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FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2009

By George

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INPORT NEWS

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PROJECTS

Need cash for complex

MARK TAYT
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne's new sports complex has hit a major financial hurdle.

Even with \$17 million in provincial and federal funding, and \$7 million in hydro lease dollars, the plan to build two arenas and a pool has no hope without more cash.

See **SPORTS COMPLEX** | Page 2

COMMUNITY: Locals prepare for Nov. 7 event

Volunteers drive food collection

KAESHA FORAND
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne food drive can be best described as organized chaos.

Hundreds of volunteers and dozens of drivers will collect, sort, pack and load thousands of pounds of food within the span of a few hours on Saturday Nov. 7.

Dan and Jan Fuoco have been at the helm of the organized chaos for the last 15 years, planning and running the food drive that provides the Inter-Church Food bank of Port Colborne and District with their largest donation. Quite a feat considering the food drive has helped Port Colborne and area families for 17 years.

The couple is currently planning the logistics of the food drive, including routes and volunteers. For the seventh year, the Christian Life Assembly gymnasium will serve as headquarters at 400 Barkin Rd.

Volunteers include 25 drivers with a van or truck to take on a route plus a few backups, with four or five volunteers to walk with each vehicle and go

door to door collecting donations. It's a busy day.

Last year, volunteers collected about 1,800 boxes of food.

"If we range between 1,600 and 1,800 boxes we'll be doing good," Jan said.

But with such a need in the community, it may leave less people to donate.

"We want people to check dates. Sometimes people think they should empty their cupboard, but we can't take open and used food," she said.

At about 8:30 a.m., the first round of volunteers including drivers and canvassers, arrive at the church. They are given their route folder with information and once ready, make their way to their respective part of town.

See **FOOD DRIVE** | Page 2

KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Pictured right: Dan and Jan Fuoco have been in food drive mode since the beginning of September, planning for Port Colborne's largest food drive to be held Nov. 7.



See Inside: **PUPU'S**
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upfront

■ **SPORTS COMPLEX:** Council votes to request another grant from provincial and federal governments

Extra \$9 million needed to fund project

FROM PAGE 1

To get the project back on track, councillors voted 5-2 on Oct. 5 during a special council meeting, to request another \$6 million in federal and provincial grant money. Getting that money would mean Port Colborne council would have to commit an additional \$3 million in hydro funds.

Mayor Vance Badawey said the extra \$9 million in funding is necessary if the city hopes to realize its dream of building the Port Colborne Health and Wellness Recreation Centre as it was initially proposed — without having to go to the municipal taxpayer for financing. Badawey said the funding shortfall stems from bad information obtained from a consulting firm. That information dates back to when council was first costing out the sports centre project in order to make the grant application to senior levels of government.

That consultant had estimated the cost of building two ice pads and a pool at between \$21 million and \$24 million. New cost figures by the project manager hired earlier this year come in at closer to \$35 million.

"We're at the make-or-break time here," Badawey said.

The option approved narrowly in a recorded vote Monday (with two councillors absent) is to leverage \$3 million in hydro funds to try and get another \$6 million in federal and provincial stimulus money. The mayor said there are no guarantees it will even happen.

A less favourable option is to scale back the project by removing one of the ice pads or the pool. Badawey said radical changes to the plan would need the approval of the province and the federal government. It could also put the project in jeopardy.

Other options include using the remaining \$5 million of hydro lease money and/or borrowing enough money to complete the project to the specifications approved by the Building Canada Fund in February.

Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo questioned the need to hastily call a town meeting that two councillors were unable to attend. He also questioned why none of the members of the new community centre advisory committee were present in council chambers. DiBartolomeo was opposed to the recommendation and felt the city had already committed enough money to the sports facility.

"I'm concerned about putting all our eggs in one

basket," he said. "What happens when the government well runs dry? What happens when there are cost over-runs? I can't support this coming from the hydro fund."

Ward 1 Coun. David Barrick, who also voted against the recommendation, shared some of the same concerns.

"Before we even have a design, we are asking for more money — quite frankly, I'm not surprised," Barrick said.

Barrick said there were several other infrastructure projects that could benefit from the hydro funds.

"I'm not in favour of the recommendation as it stands right now," he said.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters supported going to the government to ask for more money.

"If the grant application is accepted, it brings another \$6 million to Port Colborne. Is anybody going to say that we don't want the money if we are approved? We are not going to be hurt by supporting this."

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny was in favour of going back to the province and the federal government to request further funding. "I believe we should build what we can afford," Kenny said. "If we commit \$3 million (in hydro money) to get \$6 million, I think that is a pretty good deal."

DiBartolomeo argued that it was about affordability.

"How are we going to maintain a more expansive facility? That is my major concern," DiBartolomeo said. "If we need to scale down, we need to scale down."

Badawey said the project has not changed.

"Our project manager and our (new) consultant have provided us with more realistic numbers. In hindsight, the committee is challenged to bring the project in at \$21 million. You are not going to build two rinks and a pool for \$21 (million) to \$24 million. The (new) consultant is telling us it cannot be done."

Badawey said the late request for more funding is being made on advice from provincial minister George Smitherman. Badawey said a letter needs to be sent to Queen's Park.

Ward 3 Coun. Gary Bruno said the funding opportunities of late only come around once every 20 years. He said being shortsighted now will come with a cost down the road.

"I want to look 20 years out, not 20 minutes, not 20 days," he said.

■ **FOOD DRIVE**

Calling all volunteers

FROM PAGE 1

Some volunteers then set up tables, assemble boxes and prepare lunch. At about 11 a.m. the first vehicles arrive, filled with food. Until about 3 or 4 p.m. those in the church work to unpack, check expiry dates, organize food by group, and pack and load the tractor trailer donated by Larry Fontaine.

About 200 to 250 volunteers will be required to help unload, sort and pack boxes at the Christian Life Assembly. In previous years, volunteers have included Lions, Lioness, students, cubs, scouts, girl guides and community groups. High school students who lend a helping hand receive volunteer hours, and those who donate money or cheque and include their name and address can receive a tax receipt.

"The more hands we have inside the faster we get packing done. Last year a four-year-old was the youngest and 94 was the oldest," Dan said.

The more hands we have inside the faster we get packing done.

Dan Fuoco, organizer

Items needed at the food bank include canned meat and fish, peanut butter, jam, coffee, tea, canned tomatoes, canned stew, canned pasta, soup, rice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, kraft dinner, pork and beans and toiletries.

Port Colborne High School students will make their way throughout the entire city at the end of the month to hand out reminder flyers to residents about the upcoming food drive, indicating when food should be put out on the porch or left at the front of the house for pickup.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the food drive can call the Fuocos at 905-835-8157. Callers are asked to leave a message with their name and telephone number, and Jan will return the call.

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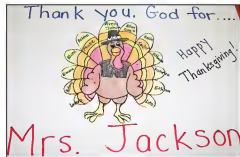
Giving thanks is on the menu

Students at St. Patrick Elementary School enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast fit for kings at the St. Patrick Church hall last Thursday. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, corn, carrots and of course, pumpkin pie was prepared and served by parent volunteers.

— KAESHA FORAND, Staff Photos



Above left: Volunteers serve lunch. Above right: Teacher Mile Caldwell says when he was a student at St. Pat's and his father was principal, they enjoyed Thanksgiving lunch. The tradition continues as he serves pie to students Tanner Lynds, Matthew Grenier and Cameron Shaefer.



Above left: Parent volunteer Diana Santarella pours gravy over potatoes. Above middle: Darryn Barrow tops pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Above right: Students made and decorated place mats.

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Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager
Kaesha Forand, Import News senior reporter

SUN MEDIA

ourview

Helping our neighbours

It's that time of year again.

Time to dig a little deeper into our pockets and help contribute a few dollars to the United Way of South Niagara's annual fundraising campaign.

Now, more than ever, money is tight — however, the need is much greater.

Thousands of people across South Niagara have found themselves visiting local food banks, using employment services and seeking assistance to get back on their feet during tough times.

Without dozens of United Way agencies that provide these much-needed services, who knows what the outcome might have been for a number of Port, Welland, Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls residents struggling to get back on their feet.

This isn't just a simple fundraiser. It's much more than that.

It's a community rallying around an agency and holding barbecues, penny sales, lunches and dinners, candy sales, garage sales, and numerous other events to benefit the community.

Every penny that goes into the United Way is given back to the community. With executive director Peter Papp, Paul Leon is leading the Welland campaign, while in Port Colborne and Welland, Sandy White is leading the campaign.

During the next few months when you hear of a fundraiser, be sure to chip in a few dollars for a barbecue or draw, you not only have the chance to win a prize or enjoy a lunch, you will also help someone in need.

STUDENTS REACH OUT



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Students at St. Patrick Elementary School recently collected food for the Port Cares Reach Out Centre. Lorrin Murdoch's Grade 4 and 5 class collected the most food and are shown presenting the donation to Mary Anne Feagan (right) of the ROC.

DONATION: Revving up support for Community



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Northend Automotive and Tire recently held a promotion where with the purchase of a deluxe oil change, \$1 would be donated to Community Living Port Colborne-Welland. With more than 270 oil changes completed, plus a personal contribution, owners Dan Terry and Barb Attili donated \$500 to Vickie Moreland, Community Living executive director.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

A true shepherd feeds starving sheep

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK
Wellfleet Congregational Christian Church

Protect the flock. We all need to search for the Word. We must all carry the weak and rejoice when a sinner comes home.

Revelation 7:17: "The Lamb that Shepherd will lead them to springs of life giving water."

They must also preach the word. When the Apostle Paul was awaiting the sword that would soon take of his head. What did he say? "This is what I get for serving God! Don't follow me."

Almost his very last words to Timothy were to preach the word. "For this is the day when many will not endure sound doctrine..." (Timothy 4:3).

We do not need a good fireside chat but we do need fire of a different kind. The Baptism of Fire that burned in Jeremiah's bones, the fire of revival, the burning hearts that the two on the Emmaus Road experienced when Jesus walked with them.

We need heat, heart, and passion. Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones said "preaching is logic on fire." Dr. Sangster asked a young minister, "If I dropped you in the river 'Thames' would it sizzle?" In other words, are you on fire?

As a sheep in the congregation, I like to be encouraged, challenged and fed. As a shepherd, I attempt to declare the full counsel of God while being empowered by his spirit. Before there is death, there will be spiritual restoration.

The Lord says in no uncertain

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terms, "What sorrow awaits you Shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks, you let your flocks starve," (Ezekiel 34:2 and 3).

There is a great famine in the land. A hunger for truth. A hunger for the word. And a hunger for God.

Without self-denial, without picking up your cross daily and following Jesus, this becomes cheap grace and grace is anything but cheap. It cost the Lord Jesus his very life.

Another reason the flock must be protected is because of false teachers. Matthew 24:11 says, "Many false teachers will appear for Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." And these deceitful workers will turn many from the truth for money and dishonest gain. (1Tim 1:11).

The key word is many. They will even deny the master who bought them (2 Peter 2:1). What can we do? Test the Spirits, and be like the Bereans and search the word.

God rebukes these false Shepherds in the strongest terms in Ezekiel 34:8: "As surely as I live says the sovereign Lord, you have condemned my flock, you have left them to be attacked by every wild animal."

Many people are looking for the answers for meaning and for love and they eventually give up hope concluding that it is easier to die than to live. How sad that some Christians who have hope in God, and the God of hope, often do not live it out.

See I'VE BEEN THINKING Page 5

WORLD ISSUES

Zelaya's game



Gwynne Dyer

I et us suppose that Manuel Zelaya, the ousted former president of Honduras, is an intelligent man with a good understanding of how politics works. Then the question is: what is his game? Because he started all this.

He was removed from office three months ago in circumstances of doubtful legality. Both the Supreme Court and the Congress had demanded his removal for "repeated violations of the constitution and the law," but the way it was done smelled more like an old-fashioned military coup.

A member of Zelaya's own Liberal Party, Roberto Micheletti, the speaker of Congress, was sworn in as interim president, and everybody promised that normal democratic service would be fully restored after the elections due on 29 November. But every non-Honduran with access to a microphone took up Zelaya's cause, from the Organization of American States to the U.S. State Department, and he emerged as a fully-fledged democratic martyr.

The left-wing leaders who have proliferated across Latin America in recent years were particularly supportive of Zelaya. Despite Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's firm denials, the suspicion lingers that Zelaya's sudden re-appearance inside the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa on Monday did not come as a complete surprise to the Brazilians.

Now he is holed up there, surrounded by the Honduran army. It's not clear how long he can stay there, but it puts enormous pressure on Zelaya's opponents to make concessions — or alternatively, the ideal location for a massacre of his supporters by trigger-happy soldiers, in which case popular opinion shifts to Zelaya's side and he returns triumphantly to power. Or at least, that is probably his plan. Am I being too cynical? OK, let's consider the evidence.

Manuel Zelaya was in the closet before he became president. He secured the nomination of the Liberal Party, a slightly left-of-centre party which has traditionally alternated in power with the right-wing National Party, and he narrowly won the presidency in the 2006 election. But it was only after he was safely in the presidential mansion that he dropped the bomb that started moving Honduras sharply left.

But he did not achieve much in practice for the Honduran poor, and he failed to build mass support for his policies.

See GWYNNE DYER | Page 5

■ GWYNNE DYER

Zelaya enjoys unprecedented foreign support

FROM PAGE 4

Opinion polls this year put his popular approval at only 25%. He was running out of time since the Honduran constitution only allows presidents one term and his term ended this year. So he announced that there would be a non-binding referendum on creating a constituent assembly to change the constitution and allow presidents a second term. It was peculiar because he had no legal right to hold such a referendum, nor does the Honduran constitution allow a constituent assembly to be elected for such a purpose. Even if the illegality of the process was ignored, there was no chance that it could happen in time to let him run for a second term. His own party would refuse to re-nominate him. What was his game?

Zelaya's only chance of holding on to power was to create a crisis that would sweep considerations aside. He pressed ahead with his plans for a referendum last June even after the Supreme Court declared it illegal. When the army refused to assist, he fired the commander-in-chief. So the Congressional and judicial authorities moved against him. They would have been wise to wait him out.

Zelaya may have foreseen the precise manner of his removal from office, but he was clearly seeking a confrontation that would destabilize the existing constitutional order. It was his only chance of staying in power.

He's halfway there. His dramatic return to the country

has created semi-siege conditions in the capital, and it's unlikely that the November elections can go ahead in the circumstances. That already improves his prospects.

Zelaya has already painted himself as the democratically elected victim of a military coup, and he enjoys unprecedented foreign support. If his domestic opponents are stupid enough to use force, he could actually win. Judging by their past, they may be that stupid.

Gwynne Dyer's latest book, *Climate Wars*, was published recently in Canada by Random House.

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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

What kind of shepherd are you?

FROM PAGE 4

We do not need another spirit, another Gospel or another Jesus (2 Cor. 11:4). We do need the new birth, a new heart and a new nature and only God can give it.

Preachers must protect the flock and preach the word with passion. This includes positively feeding them and negatively refusing error. Loving, protecting, feeding, caring for the weak, sick and the downcast.

What type of sheep are you? Do you want to find a sense of belonging, to be loved, encouraged and nourished?

What type of shepherd are you? False shepherds do not care for their sheep and when the wolf comes, they flee. In contrast, God says, "I will find them, to be loved, encouraged and nourished." I will bring them back home to their land and I will feed them. They will lie down in peace and I will bind up the injured, strengthen the weak and carry them close to my heart (Ezekiel 34:13).

Leaders, as shepherds, do not take their calling lightly. Congregations will follow them if they are true shepherds as they follow Christ.

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■ **COMMUNITY:** The Kids Zone and The Teen Zone offers youth activities

After school program expands to include teens

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Boys and Girls Club of Niagara is offering a safe, fun place for Port Colborne children and teens to hang out after school, in partnership with Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet.

The Kids Zone has already seen suc-

cesses with an average 25 children between the ages of six and 12 participating in activities at Community Living on Monday and Friday nights.

From 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Kids Zone encourages children to play games and sports in the Centre for Community Living gymnasium at 100 McRae Ave. They also do crafts, take part in computer time and

learn. Outings include going to the YMCA for swimming.

Cooking classes are popular because youngsters have the opportunity to learn about food preparation and personal hygiene while enjoying the fruits of their labour. They are also sent home with recipes they can try with their family.

The club costs \$5 for the entire school year — a price that includes bus transportation to and from the centre.

It's the first year of the partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and Community Living, so that youth programmer Rita Smith said is positive to provide services to youths.

"The Kids Zone has been very, very good," she said. "It gives (children) something to do in a safe environment. For us we are offering after school programs because there weren't any."

Cristabel Davies is one of two staff members overseeing children during the Kids Zone evenings and said youths enjoy the activities.

"If they're not at the Kids Zone they

"If they're not at the Kids Zone they would be at home playing video games."

Cristabel Davies, Kids Zone staff member

would be at home playing video games," she said.

Nicole Rees, program director with the Boys and Girls Club said the organization offers services at 12 locations in seven municipalities.

"The Boys and Girls Club came to Community Living with expertise and staff," Rees said. "We're basically filling in the gaps in the Port Colborne community. It was lacking activities for ages six to 12."

A Teen Zone made its debut last week. Youth — age 13 to 19 — have the opportunity to spend time in the gym and in computer labs. They play pool and foosball, have access to the Internet and take trips. Rock band and movie nights are planned until the program ends June 18, 2010.

Rees said getting teens to attend on Wednesday nights may be a challenge at first, but once they participate, they stay and invite their friends.

The majority of the program is funded through grants.

If it continues to be successful, the program might snowball into a Christmas break or summer break camp and continue the following year — funding permitted.

To register, call Ray Wallace at the Boys and Girls Club at 905-357-2444 ext. 25 or Smith at 905-835-8941 ext. 135.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca



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■ RELIGION

Church to host first
Canadian Night and
Day Conference

InPort News Staff

Morgan's Point United Church is preparing to host the first-ever Canadian Night and Day Conference.

The two-day conference on Oct. 16-17 will explore the questions: How do I hear the voice of God? What could God be saying to me in my dreams? What does God have to say about my destiny?

The conference is free and open to the public. It will be led by Morgan's Point United Church pastor Jevon Sam and guest speaker Donald Hornsby.

Hornsby is certified as a Biblical dream interpreter through John Paul Jackson's Streams ministries. His teaching focuses on hearing God's voice with particular emphasis on the role of dreams and visions in a quest for deeper intimacy with God.

Sam said he ran a similar conference with Hornsby earlier this year in Erie, Pennsylvania but this is the first time the conference has been brought to Canada.

There will be an opportunity for individual dream interpretation but anyone wishing individual sessions is asked to preregistration online by going to www.nightanddayconference.com or call 905-899-1218.

Sam said about 50 people were already registered as of last Thursday. "We just want people to come out and be blessed by this," he said.

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■ **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Event to take place at St. James St. Brendan church Oct. 24

Church sounds alarm bells for the environment

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — On Saturday, Oct. 24 the bell at St. James St. Brendan church will ring more than 350 times.

The number 350 is significant in the world of climate change, and the Port Colborne Anglican Church in addition to thousands of groups around the world, want to make sure the government hears loud and clear that the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million.

The atmosphere currently sits at 389 ppm, a number that is rising year after year.

Rev. Robert Hurkmans said the church will hold an event where all religions and members of the community are invited to participate and where everyone will have the opportunity to ring the church bell a few times.

The event will feature an alternative energy display, music by Boy Moore and the Mods, chili and bread for lunch and, weather permitting, a picture will be taken from the roof of the church to photograph the entire group of people promoting 350. Those in the picture will hold a banner with each person's hand print and signature to create a visual petition to join more than 140 countries and more than 1,800 demonstrations worldwide.

The reason behind this mission is in December 2009, world leaders will meet at the Copenhagen Climate Conference and hopefully sign a treaty to address climate change.

"The 350 event is a world wide call to action," Hurkmans said.

"Ours is just one of many."



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

St. James St. Brendan parishioner Pat Davis, Rev. Robert Hurkmans and his wife Sally hope the church's 350 event on Saturday, Oct. 24 will help support a worldwide day to bring attention to increasing air pollution.

See 350 | Page 9

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Metro Fall Harvest Food Drive to run until Oct. 23

Campaign aims to raise 500,000 lbs of food

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBOURNE — As people gathered last weekend to say grace with a table full of food, many families are forced to go without a big turkey and all the trimmings.

To help address the Canada-wide shortage of food at food banks, Metro Ontario Inc. and the Ontario Association of Food Banks recently launched the Metro Fall Harvest Food Drive. The food drive will run until Oct. 23.

Locally, the Port Colborne Food Basics store will have a bin and all food donated will be divided between the Inter-Church Food Bank of Port Colborne and District, the Salvation Army and Port Cares.

The campaign's goal is to raise 500,000 lbs of food, however, locally, anything donated will be appreciated.

"All food providers have seen an increase and

we're grateful for this food," said Mary Anne Feagan, Port Cares Reach Out Centre manager, noting the majority of food donated to Port Cares will go towards the ROC's meal program.

Last week Port Cares volunteers worked the blue bin in a weekend blitz with the hopes of increasing donations.

"All items are gratefully appreciated. We're all out of tomato sauce and we usually have oodles of it," she said, noting they are also short on canned vegetables and fruit.

Cheryl Moore of the Salvation Army on Clarence St. said her shelves are empty because clients are visiting the Salvation Army on a monthly basis instead of every four months.

"The need is there, the shelves are low. We're serving 100 people per month and it's growing."

She said they are in need of soup, kidney beans, coffee, rice, cereal and tomato sauce among other staples.



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

A national food drive is being held by Metro Ontario Inc. stores, including the Port Colborne Food Basics store, until Friday, Oct. 23. A bin will be set up at the store's exit where people can donate food for Port's three emergency food providers. Food Basics store manager Mike Keliba, Port Cares volunteer Cheryl Janeway, Reach Out Centre manager Mary Anne Feagan and Cheryl Moore of the Salvation Army stand at a checkout with the donation barrel.

■ 350

Bells will ring to draw attention to climate change

FROM PAGE 8

"We think this is an issue everybody thinks about and we invite people who come by to take a few pulls of the bell," he said those interested in participating can show up at the church at the corner of King and Charlotte Sts. between noon and 2 p.m. Music will play from noon to 12:30 p.m., the photo will be taken at 1 p.m. and

special speakers will also stop by.

Parishioner and green committee member Pat Davis said climate change is a topic that is slowly attracting more awareness.

"It's the perfect opportunity for the public to show the government what they want them to do. We need to stand up and be counted."

For more information on the event, visit www.350.org.

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■ EDUCATION: School pumpkin sale to benefit special needs program



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Special needs students at Oakwood Elementary School will be busy during the next few weeks, painting pumpkins similar to these and selling them with proceeds going into the school's special needs program. Students Carley Morin, Aaron Haas and Kelsey Murphy display the pumpkins on sale for a minimum donation of \$5 for a large pumpkin. Ten pumpkins will also be raffled. Tickets are 25 cents each or six for \$1.

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■ **DEVELOPMENT:** Project could create local jobs, developer says

Residents oppose plans for new subdivision

MAGGIE RIOPELLE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Residents have concerns that a new subdivision development will have an impact on the environmentally sensitive wetlands and fish habitat.

Lester Shoals Ltd. has plans for the construction of 75 single detached residential lots, two semi-detached residential units and 13 townhouses which is the Westwood Estates phase two project.

As part of the project, the development of a secondary plan was required. Back in 2006, Shoals submitted the second plan and applications for official plan and zoning amendments with supporting studies — traffic, environmental impact and storm water management.

Resident Tom Palma and his wife Beth, who reside on Clarence St., submitted an 18-page written report on project and had some major concerns with the project.

"Any development in a designated environmental area is quite disconcerting to us," he said.

"We can't help but feel the city has an obligation to itself and its citizens to vet all proposed development in environmental areas against the 2006 (Official) plan and to make an effort to save these areas."

The property in question is in the area of the Eagle Marsh Drain to the south, by the CN Rail lands to the north, by the city of Port Colborne municipal boundary and Cement Plant Rd. to the west. To the east are residential subdivisions Sunset Acres and Lorne Park Acres. On the property, is the Quarry Park Pond.

Among their concerns is the loss of a six-metre wide

We are committed to growth in Port Colborne no matter how long it takes.

Todd Shoals, developer

easeement to the west of the property, development of a residential lot/subdivision adjacent to the property, encroachment on their property, the increased density of housing, increased traffic on Clarence St. and Cement Plant Rd., safety issues for students in the area with a lack of sidewalks, and maintenance of the quarry.

"I understand the majority of the concerns," said Todd Shoals.

"I live in the neighbourhood."

For the last three and a half years, the company has developed its plans that will likely address a lot of the concerns, said Shoals consultant at the meeting.

Shoals said the company has met with the necessary agencies to discuss all the outstanding matters and completed all necessary studies. As for the quarry, Shoals said it is private property, owned by the company, but frequently used by the community. The company plans to block off the entrances to the quarry to stop motorized vehicles but fully expects the community to still make use of the land.

The long-term goal, he said, is to have it designated as parkland and hopefully in the future have the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority take it over.

their 165th anniversary service. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. with special music from the Niagara Christian Community of schools, children and youth. Events continue from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Guest speakers, children's bell and adult choir, year in review, roast beef supper and concert. Call 905-899-1373.

Oct. 29: Get Down to Business breakfast networking meeting from 7:15 to 8:45 a.m. at The Hub at the Guild Hall. The objective is to network with and learn from fellow business leaders in our community, to be inspired and motivated, and to share successes and challenges. Breakfast is \$6. RSVP to Tracey Kirk at store351@the-upstore.ca or 289-241-7790 on or before Oct. 23.

Oct. 30: Meets on Wheels Port Colborne will host a spooktacular murder mystery dinner (tastefully executed) in support of the United Way. Tickets are \$40 for the dinner to be held at the Croatian National Home on Broadway Ave. in Welland. Call 905-835-1581 for tickets.

Ongoing events

• Tuesdays at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 200 Erie St. The Port Colborne Air Cadets will hold accept new registrations during their training nights from 6:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. For boys and girls between

... the city has an obligation to itself and its citizens to vet all proposed development in environmental areas against the 2006 (Official) Plan and to make an effort to save these areas.

Tom Palma, Clarence St. resident

A few residents had concerns the new build would create drainage problems and asked that it be address prior to approval or construction.

Resident Ron Steele told council to support the project because it's a win-win situation. The subdivision, he said would encourage construction creating employment, would bring new people to town looking for homes and increase the city's assessment base.

"If Port Colborne is going to grow, there needs to be a sufficient number of building lots," said Shoals.

"It took us 18 years to sell the lots in the first phase. We are committed to growth in Port Colborne no matter how long it takes."

Now, city staff must review comments from the public and applicant and provide a report to council. Mayor Vance Badaway said that information will hopefully address all the questions before council considers approving the project.

mriopelle@wellandtribune.ca

■ along the lakeshore

Oct. 18: Participate in the Country Walk for Breast Cancer, with all proceeds benefitting the Port Colborne mammography department. Members and non-members of the Whitley Run Golf Club pay to play the course and \$10 from each player goes toward the cause. Any golfer who raises \$100 can golf for free. Walk pledge sheets are available at Boggo Pharmacy and golf pledge sheets are available at Whitley Run. The walk is 5 km. It begins on Lorraine Rd., heads toward the Friendship Trail, onto Weaver Rd., and then circles back to Lorraine Rd.

Oct. 21: Free astronomy event at the Port Colborne Museum. Astronomy buffs young and old are invited to participate in the evening star viewing and presentation at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives Building at 7:30 p.m. Telescopes and binoculars will be provided and those in attendance will receive star finder handouts with books. The event is being held in honour of the International Year of Astronomy.

Oct. 25: Winger Church of Christ Disciples invites you celebrate

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■ PEOPLE PLACES

Prime minister's visit creates a buzz

George Duma
BY GEORGE

Mr. Harper Goes To Welland. OK, so admittedly it doesn't have the same ring as Mr. Smith Goes To Washington.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper did pay a visit to Niagara College's Welland campus last Friday and it created quite the buzz. My goodness.

First, there was the issue of the surveillance. Days before his visit, we noticed a number of young men dressed in dark suits wandering the halls with cell phones in their ears.

Now, since I began teaching in the journalism program a little more than two years ago, I can tell you that young men in suits definitely stand out in the college crowd.

Actually, it's quite funny. For the first two weeks of college life at the Welland campus in early September, students actually do dress very nicely. I suppose they want to make a good impression on each other and their profs. But by about the third week of school, they're in sweats, old jeans, t-shirts, you name it. Suits are definitely not the garb, unless they're in Nancy Geddie's Public Relations program.

Maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, but you get the idea.

It turns out the young men in dark suits were part of the Prime Minister's advance team, sent to help make plans for the later-in-the-week visit.

It was truly an intriguing few days, watching how events like this one unfold.

Although the rumours of his visit had been flying for at least two weeks prior, the official confirmation came Thursday afternoon, the day before he came.

We had two student journalists from our program, a reporter and a photographer, accredited to cover the visit for our newspaper, *Niagara News*.

The day of the visit saw guests and dignitaries packed into the student pub, which had been set up as a small auditorium. A number of people spoke including, of course, Prime Minister Harper.

Here's how student reporter Josh Grant-Young wrote the story for our newspaper's website minutes after the Prime Minister had left:

"The buzz of discussion slowly subsided as an entourage of stern men enveloped Niagara College's guest, a man whose presence set a precedent in college history.

"Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke at the After Hours Student Pub today, marking the first time a Canadian prime minister spoke at Niagara College. The occasion was marked by the announcement of an injection of federal and provincial funds to create the new Niagara College Applied Health Institute.

The new addition is expected to draw about 1,000 new applied health students. Niagara College is one of many post-secondary institutions that will be included in Knowledge Infrastructure Budget, which is an investment of \$1.5 billion.

While Harper was quick to acknowledge the economic recession is still looming over Niagara, the new addition to the college he says is a



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Looking over plans for a \$40-million applied health institute at an official ground breaking at Niagara College's Welland Campus last week, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley, Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, college president Dan Patterson and St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra.

step in the right direction.

Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne, in a poke at the prime minister's rendition of *A Little Help From My Friends* suggested that now was the time that Canada and Welland in particular should Get Back to the condition of the Canadian economy was before the recession.

"College President Dan Patterson was overjoyed with the results of government co-operation, noting the success of 'dedicated and capable politicians'.

"Drawing parallels between the school's new addition and the college motto, Patterson captured the focus of the event and importance of the college in coming years by stating: 'The school's motto is 'Building Futures' and it truly is."

As I've said in the past, words can't describe how proud I am to be associated with Niagara College. Not only is Dan Patterson a class act in every sense of the word, he is also the college's top supporter.

And my students? Well, they make me burst with pride every day. The work they do, like Josh's story above, reflects professionalism I did not expect from students when I joined the faculty.

We at Niagara College were wonderful, engaging gracious hosts for the Prime Minister and his entourage. I'm sure that fact was long on him.

Thanksgiving weekend is synonymous with the annual Bulls Falls Thanksgiving Festival. It's a magical time and last Sunday was no different.

Under clear, blue skies with a crisp breeze in the air, it's the epitome of what a fall arts and crafts festival should be. The only one that can go in the same category is Labour Day weekend's Markville Heritage Festival in Wainfleet.

We're never disappointed when we go to Bull's Falls and this past weekend was just different.

Tomorrow night, the *Jukebox Opera* is playing at Roselawn Centre. The show features Aaron Solomon, Maggie Vella, Vanessa Vella, Debbie Bayslaw and Washboard Hank. For any of you who saw Port Colborne Opera Society's amazing production of the *Wizard of Oz*, you'll remember Vanessa Vella as Dorothy. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$2.50.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@cogeco.ca.

■ localbrief

MURDER MYSTERY FUNDRAISER

More than half the tickets are sold for a Murder Mystery Dinner in support of United Way of South Niagara.

The evening is being hosted by Meals on Wheels Port Colborne on Friday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Croisier National Home in Welland.

Tickets are \$40 each, will be sold until

Oct. 23 and can be reserved by calling 905-835-1581 and includes the evening with actors by tastefully Executed Murders in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. where guests can receive clues to the murder. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. and during dessert, the mystery will be solved.

The evening will also feature a live auction where bidders can win hockey tickets, golf packages and tickets to shows.

—InPort News Staff



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**LEGAL
NOTICES**
IN THE ESTATE OF ROSE MARIE
KILBURN, late of the City of Port Colborne,
in the Regional Municipality of Niagara,
deceased.
ROSE MARIE KILBURN, late of the City of Port Colborne,
in the Regional Municipality of Niagara,
Homemaker, deceased, who died
on or about the 26th day of May, 2009,
must be filed with the undersigned personal
representative on or before the 23rd day of
November, 2009, thereafter, the
undersigned will distribute the assets of
the estate, having regard only to the claims
then filed.

DATED at Port Colborne, Ontario, this
7th day of October, 2009.

Mariette Petroff
Estate Trustee
c/o WILSON OPTATOVSKY
Barristers & Solicitors,
180 Elm Street, P.O. Box 99
Port Colborne, Ontario,
L8K 5V7

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■ COMMUNITY

School breakfast club gets a boost

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE—On a daily basis, more than 60 students at St. Therese Elementary School get a head start on their day by visiting the breakfast club.

For more than 10 years, staff and parent volunteers have prepared breakfast for students including toast, muffins, cheese, apple slices, cereal, juice and yogurt.

"We're supposed to serve three out of four food groups," said teacher Theresa Klukach, noting the club runs thanks to a grant from the Niagara Nutrition Partners.

She said students are appreciative of the food they receive between 8:30 and 9 a.m., especially those who might not have time to eat in the morning. Snacks are also available during the day for students who might have missed the club or those who could go for an extra snack.

"When children come off the bus they can come right in," and enjoy breakfast, she said.

Last week, the club received an extra boost from Drifter's who donated juice and cereal.

"We heard about it and asked how we could help," said manager/owner Tammy Aubertin.

On a daily basis, a teacher and parent volunteer set up the breakfast table where students can help themselves, however, with less funding this year, the school will have to rely on more community and corporate donations.

As for the importance of the breakfast club, the results speak for themselves. "We do notice a difference as far as academic performance, their attitude towards the day and the general feel towards the school."

kforand@wellandtribune.ca



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Drifter's manager/owner Tammy Aubertin, left, was on hand bright and early Tuesday morning to present staff and volunteers at St. Therese Catholic Elementary School with a donation of juice and cereal for the school's breakfast club. She looks on as parent volunteer Kim Lacroix and her son Austin fill cups with juice.

Community Services

Person to Person

ACTIVE 74 year old **St. Therese** in **Niagara** area would like to meet a gentleman of similar age for companionship, friendship or to share common interests. I am an honest & sincere person who enjoys travel, reading, golf and dining out. Please reply to box # 5953, c/o The Tribune, 228 St. John St., Welland, ON L3B 3S9.

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■ CONTEST WINNER



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Oakwood Elementary School Grade 2 student Maddison Coleman received a surprise visit from Sparky and members of the Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services last week. She was one of two colouring contest winners, which earned her a few special gifts and a pizza party for her class.

■ DONATION



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The United Way of South Niagara received a \$549 donation from Port Cares — proceeds from a recent barbecue. Karla Gramatovich, Port Cares special events co-ordinator, and Brenda Harvey, of the Training Centre, presented the cheque to United Way executive director Peter Papp.

■ BUSINESS



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Talwood Manor Bed and Breakfast hosted the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce Business After 5 recently. The home at 303 Fielden Ave. features three themed rooms and can accommodate eight guests. Chamber president Donna Martens Gamm enjoyed the royal treatment in the Asian room with owner Judith Boroniec and helpers Margaret Dorsey and Helen Haymes.